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Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Fifty-second session

Summary record of the 9th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 2 May 2014, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Kerdoun (Vice-Chairperson)

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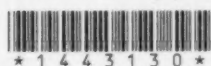
Combined second and third periodic reports of Monaco

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Any corrections to the records of the public meetings of the Committee at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

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In the absence of Mr. Kedzia, Mr. Kerdoun (Vice-Chairperson) took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Consideration of reports

(a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant (continued)

Combined second and third periodic reports of Monaco (E/C.12/2014/MCO/2-3; E/C.12/2014/MCO/Q/2-3 and Add.1; HRI/CORE/MCO/2008)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of Monaco took places at the Committee table.*
2. **Ms. Lanteri** (Monaco) said that the Principality had striven to implement the Committee's recommendations since the previous dialogue in 2006. The High Commission for the protection of rights and freedoms and mediation had been established. Any individual or legal person could bring a complaint to the High Commission if they believed that their rights or freedoms had been infringed by the authorities or a Government service or if they considered themselves the victims of unjustified discrimination. The High Commission had the authority to issue opinions and study any matter related to the protection of rights and freedoms and non-discrimination. Furthermore, the Nationality Act of 1992 had been amended to permit the transmission of Monegasque nationality by women who had acquired it by birth or naturalization.
3. Regarding reproductive health, an Act adopted in 2009 established the Prenatal Coordination and Family Support Centre and authorized the medical termination of pregnancy in specific cases. Human rights had been integrated in curricula at all levels and were part of teacher training. The Government also ran programmes in schools to combat addiction, especially to alcohol and drugs. An Act had been adopted in 2007 to increase the protection of minors and punish offences against them. Regarding domestic violence, a 2011 act on the punishment of interpersonal violence aimed to strengthen the protection of women, children and persons with disabilities and had led to the adoption of measures to protect victims and train lawyers, judges and other professionals assisting them.
4. Regarding cultural rights, an Act on associations and federations of associations had been adopted in 2008, which removed all reference to the administrative supervision of associations. An Act on support and social protection for self-employed professional artists had been adopted in 2009 to promote Monegasque artistic expression. Lastly, the Directorate of International Cooperation was active in some 10 partner countries, mainly with the goal of eliminating poverty. It collaborated with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations.
5. **Mr. Atangana** (Country Rapporteur) noted that, although the State party had mostly accepted the Committee's recommendations, it had not withdrawn its reservations, such as the reservation on article 2, paragraph 2, of the Covenant. He requested further information on court cases where the Covenant had been invoked.

Articles 1 to 5

6. **Ms. Bras Gomes** expressed regret that the State party did not wish to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Covenant, on a complaints procedure, and that it had not ratified certain Council of Europe instruments either. She asked whether the State party had changed its stance on that matter and whether it intended to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. She also asked whether

the High Commission for the protection of rights and freedoms and mediation was considered as a national independent human rights institution and whether it had applied for accreditation by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

7. Regarding Supreme Court case law on discrimination, she requested examples of employment discrimination suits that had been brought before the courts. She asked whether anti-discrimination legislation listed all the prohibited grounds of discrimination set forth in article 2, paragraph 2, of the Covenant and whether it would be possible to expand the scope of the bill on discrimination in the public sector to include the new prohibited grounds mentioned in the Committee's general comment No. 20.

8. **Mr. Schrijver** asked whether the new national human rights institution fulfilled the Paris Principles. He requested further information on the State party's reasons for maintaining its reservations regarding the Covenant, and asked what impact their withdrawal would have on its legal system. He also asked whether the State party intended to ratify the main International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions and what it had decided regarding the opportuneness of ratifying the Optional Protocol. Lastly, he wished to know whether the Government was on track to achieve the goal of allocating 0.7 per cent of GDP to official development assistance by 2015.

9. **Ms. Shin** lamented the lack of information on the implementation of articles 2, 3 and 15 of the Covenant and hoped that the gap would be filled in the next periodic report. She asked whether civil society had been consulted during the preparation of the reports and whether the concluding observations issued pursuant to the consideration of the previous report had been broadly disseminated. She wished to know what was the current situation of Monegasque human rights NGOs and the nature of their collaboration with the authorities. She enquired about any steps taken to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as the State party had announced it would in 2009. She asked what system was in place to ensure that men and women had equal economic, social and cultural rights, including in the workplace, and how well represented women were in parliament and public bodies.

10. **Mr. Kedzia** asked whether international norms still prevailed over national laws once they had been incorporated into the national legal order. He wished to know whether a system had been set up for the implementation of the concluding observations made by the Committee and other treaty bodies and, if so, whether civil society organizations were involved.

11. **Mr. Sadi** asked what the main obstacles to the implementation of the provisions of the Covenant were and why the State party had failed to submit its second report on time. He also asked why refugees and asylum seekers were not included in the vulnerable persons category.

12. **Mr. Abashidze**, noting that only four articles of the Constitution concerned rights enshrined in the Covenant, asked whether the Government intended to adopt measures to reflect all Covenant rights in the Constitution and asked whether provisions had already been made for the direct enforceability of economic, social and cultural rights, as had been the case with civil and political rights. He wished to know why Monaco was not a member of the European Union and whether the Monegasque legal system protected economic, social and cultural rights better than the European system.

13. **The Chairperson**, speaking as a Committee member, asked on which continents contained the least developed countries to which the State party provided development assistance and the progress had been achieved in the area of environmental and climate protection.

14. **Ms. Pettiti** (Monaco) said that the annual budget for international cooperation would increase by 6 to 7 per cent as of 2015 and that 62 per cent of official development assistance for least developed countries went to Africa. The reservations regarding certain instruments and the non-ratification of other international instruments were due to the measures that the Government had had to take to ensure that the 8,000 nationals, out of the Principality's nearly 37,000 inhabitants, were given priority in terms of housing and employment.
15. **Ms. Cotta** (Monaco) said that, despite the fact that according nationals priority in employment and housing prevented the Principality from ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, Monaco welcomed a very large number of foreign cross-border workers who were entitled to rights and protection in labour matters.
16. **Mr. Bessi** (Monaco) said that 2.6 per cent of the 46,600 private sector workers were Monegasque and that 15 per cent of employees lived in Monaco.
17. **Ms. Cotta** (Monaco) said that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had been signed in 2009 and that a bill on the protection, autonomy and promotion of the rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities had been submitted to the National Council. The Government had also taken measures to provide employment assistance and improve accessibility in the city.
18. **Ms. Lanteri** (Monaco) said that the goal of the assistance that children with disabilities received in schools was to help them become as autonomous as possible so that, as adults, they could work and live autonomously but still benefit from social support.
19. **Ms. Cotta** (Monaco) said that ILO membership was being considered. Even so, Monegasque legislation already covered the principles and rules of ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).
20. **Ms. Lanteri** (Monaco) said that the High Commission for the protection of rights and freedoms and mediation had been established in compliance with the Paris Principles and that the High Commissioner, who had just taken up office, should soon be applying to the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions for accreditation. The submission of periodic reports was sometimes delayed due to limited human resources, given that the Foreign Affairs Secretary at the Directorate of International Affairs was the only person authorized to prepare them.
21. **Mr. Bessi** (Monaco) said that the law gave priority in employment to nationals, residents of Monaco, workers and job seekers residing in Monaco and workers living in neighbouring municipalities. It also provided for workers, irrespective of their nationality or place of residence, to be registered with the employment agency if they were Italian cross-border workers or had been laid off in Monaco as part of a mass redundancy. In addition, Act No. 629 of 17 July 1957 on recruitment and dismissal conditions set out the order of priority for recruiting and dismissing workers of equal skill. Cross-border workers, irrespective of their nationality, enjoyed the same rights in terms of remuneration and social benefits. All employees, regardless of their remuneration, were entitled to social security coverage equivalent to 85 per cent of the share of the local social security scheme. Private insurance companies financed exclusively by employers guaranteed that employees who suffered workplace injuries or occupational diseases received their full income.
22. All employees and employers were free to join the trade union of their choice. A union could only be established if at least half of its officers was of French or Monegasque nationality. Currently, the officers of the three trade union federations could only be of Monegasque nationality. All employees had the right to strike and could not be penalized

for doing so. In the event of a strike, the employees were required to organize, through the labour inspectorate, security services to maintain the condition of the premises. Some public services were obliged to guarantee a minimum level of activity during strikes. By law, men and women were entitled to equal pay for equal work. Affirmative anti-discrimination measures had been taken for women; for example, they were entitled to 11 hours' rest between work days, whereas men had 10.

23. **Ms. Cotta** (Monaco) said that the Government Councillor for Infrastructure, the Environment and Town Planning was a woman and that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the Department of Social Affairs and Health were headed by women. A number of senior posts in the judiciary were held by women and there were more female than male ambassadors. Of the 24 national councillors 5 were women, as were 4 of the 15 members of the Communal Council of the Monaco city authorities.

24. **Mr. Cellario** (Monaco) said that, since the Nationality Act had been amended, the conditions for acquiring Monegasque nationality applied equally to men and women, without exception.

25. **Ms. Lanteri** (Monaco) said that the Supreme Court had ruled that the Covenant was an integral part of national legislation.

26. **Ms. Pettiti** (Monaco) said that the Constitution was at the top of the hierarchy of norms, followed by international instruments, acts, ordinances and orders. International instruments were enforceable as soon as they were published in the Official Gazette, even before their incorporation into national legislation.

27. European legislation was already observed in myriad areas, given that France and Monaco had concluded many bilateral conventions forcing laws to be identical, such as in banking. Despite Monaco having belonged to the European Customs Union since 1968, in addition to the common system of value added tax (VAT), there were still difficulties regarding the freedom of movement of goods and services: although they could enter the Principality easily, the reverse was not true. After the dialogue established with the European Commission following the 2007 declaration on article 8 of the Treaty on European Union, the Council of Europe had decided in 2012 that various options might be considered to integrate Monaco more fully into the common market, such as the conclusion of one or more association agreements with the European Union.

28. **Ms. Lanteri** (Monaco) said that, owing to its geographical location, Monaco did not receive an influx of migrants by sea. All those who were granted refugee status enjoyed the same rights, under the same conditions, as residents.

29. Since the periodic report had been prepared in the lead-up to the universal periodic review, consultations with civil society had included issues related to the Covenant. As a rule, all documents were available on the Government's website.

30. **Mr. Tirado Mejía** asked whether it might soon be possible for a princess to become head of State.

31. **The Chairperson**, speaking as a Committee member, asked why the State party appeared to provide assistance to French-speaking least developed countries and not to English- or Portuguese-speaking ones.

32. **Mr. Atangana** asked why divorced women could not transmit Monegasque nationality.

33. **Mr. Abashidze**, referring to paragraph 244 of the 2008 core document, asked whether any NGOs specialized in dealing with infringements of human rights had been set up.

34. **Ms. Shin** regretted that the proportion of women in the Communal Council and the National Council was under 30 per cent, and asked how the roles of men and women in the family and society were perceived.

35. **Ms. Lanteri** (Monaco) said that Monaco had not adopted the Salic law of succession and that nothing prevented women from reigning; in fact, it had already occurred. However, the Constitution did define a hierarchy of children whereby the son acceded to the throne, even if he was the younger sibling. Monaco had been a member of the International Organization of la Francophonie since its establishment and had very close ties with French-speaking African countries, which was why it favoured least developed countries from that region when allocating development assistance.

36. **Ms. Ambrosini** (Monaco) said that, in terms of access to employment, no distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference was made on the grounds of race, colour, gender, religion, political opinion or social origin. The status of civil servants bill, currently under consideration by the National Council, prohibited discrimination on the grounds of political, philosophical or religious opinion, trade union affiliation, sexual orientation, health, disability, ethnicity or physical appearance. However, Monegasques were a minority in their own country; therefore, the Government had had to take measures to protect their access to employment and housing, which should not be seen as discrimination against foreigners.

37. **Mr. Cellario** (Monaco) said that a foreign national, male or female, who divorced a Monegasque could not transmit Monegasque nationality to a subsequent partner or to any children born of another relationship. Given the privileges afforded to nationals and the size of the country, the Government had no choice but to restrict the transmission of Monegasque nationality. The NGOs operating in the country were not specialized in human rights violations but, rather, dealt with issues of violence and discrimination.

38. **Ms. Cotta** (Monaco) said that domestic responsibilities were increasingly being shared and that Act No. 1309 of 29 May 2006 provided for paternity leave for employees. Fathers were entitled to 12 days for a single birth and to 19 days for multiple births or when the family already had two dependent children.

39. **Ms. Pettiti** (Monaco) said that the Covenant was regularly invoked by the public, including before the Supreme Court, which had issued a number of orders regarding working and housing conditions.

Articles 6 to 9

40. **Ms. Bras Gomes** asked whether the State party had put in place a parental leave system whereby one parent could care for a dependent adult, a sick child or a child with a disability and, if so, whether fathers had ever availed themselves of it. Referring to paragraph 30 of the report, she asked what the status was of the bill on employment contracts. She also asked what the working conditions of the approximately 1,900 domestic workers were, whether a complaints mechanism had been set up for them to report problems, given that there were no labour inspections in the private domain, and whether any abusive employers had ever been convicted. She asked whether the State party intended to ratify ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189). She wished to know whether the self-employed had social security coverage and whether any categories of worker were excluded. It would be interesting to know whether the State party had concluded bilateral social security agreements with most of the countries of origin of foreign workers in Monaco. Lastly, she regretted that the State party had not revised its legislation regarding access to social benefits for low-income foreigners working and living in Monaco, which currently made eligibility for social assistance contingent upon residency in the country for at least five years.

41. **Mr. Ribeiro Leão** asked whether the main amendments to labour law detailed in paragraph 16 et seq. of the report also applied to foreigners working in the informal sector.

42. **Mr. Kedzia**, referring to paragraph 32 of the report, asked whether the State party had any data on the exemptions from the length of residency requirement which were frequently granted to address sensitive social situations. He wished to know what percentage of exemptions were denied and, where applicable, the grounds for denial.

43. **Mr. Martynov** requested further information on the situation of persons with disabilities, specifically, their number, their employment rate in recent years and any programmes, such as quotas, implemented to promote their recruitment in both the private and public sectors. He wished to know the extent of informal work in the construction and hotel industries, and requested disaggregated data on the prevalence of occupational diseases as it related to the implementation the Covenant. He asked what legal obstacles prevented the State party from withdrawing the declaration it had made upon acceding to the Covenant and what institutional barriers prevented it from joining ILO. He wished to know whether a child from a low-income family living in Monaco for less than five years might be denied access to free health care.

44. **Mr. Sadi** asked whether the minimum wage was the same for residents of Monaco as for cross-border workers, and whether workers who commuted daily from France or Italy had access to social benefits on a par with residents.

Articles 10 to 12

45. **Mr. Ribeiro Leão** asked whether foreign youth could benefit from the measures taken to prevent and combat drug abuse.

46. **Ms. Cong** asked whether child labour and child pornography were an issue in Monaco and whether the State party cooperated at the international level to prevent trafficking in women and girls. She asked whether sex education classes were taught in schools, what percentage of people suffered from mental problems and what services were available to them.

47. **Ms. Shin** asked whether doctors, pharmacists and teachers were required to report any cases of domestic violence that might be brought to their attention and whether the law provided for stiffer penalties when victims had a disability. She also asked how many abortions had been performed since abortion legislation had been amended, whether women were aware of their rights in that regard and what measures the State party was taking to prevent early pregnancy.

48. **Ms. Ravenberg** asked what measures the State party was taking to guarantee the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health.

49. **Mr. Kedzia** asked whether bill No. 869 on interpersonal violence had been adopted, whether Act No. 1.355 of 23 December 2008, mentioned in paragraph 53 of the report, applied to all rights or only to cases of domestic violence, and what had been the specific outcome of the measures to combat drug abuse described in paragraphs 100 et seq. of the report.

50. **Mr. Schrijver** asked what percentage of GDP the Government had allocated to official development assistance in 2012 and 2013 and to what extent it based its priorities in that area on the provisions of the Covenant.

51. **Ms. Lanteri** (Monaco) said that, despite the crisis, official development assistance had held steady in 2012–2013 and currently stood at 0.4 per cent of GDP. The objective of over half of its bilateral and multilateral international cooperation programmes was to

provide health and social assistance to the most vulnerable groups, such as women, children and persons with disabilities.

52. **Mr. Mancisidor** asked to what extent the State party ensured that Monegasque women were active in scientific research and held senior posts in research teams, and how the State party fulfilled its obligations under article 15, paragraphs 1 (b) and 4, of the Covenant.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.



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Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Fifty-second session

Summary record of the first part (public)* of the 10th meeting
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 2 May 2014, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Kerdoun (Vice-Chairperson)

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Consideration of reports

- (a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant (*continued*)

Combined second and third periodic reports of Monaco (continued)

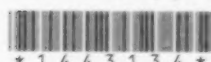
* No summary record was prepared for the second part (closed) of the meeting.

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Consideration of reports

(a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant (continued)

Combined second and third periodic reports of Monaco (continued)
(E/C.12/MCO/2-3; HRI/CORE/MCO/2008; E/C.12/MCO/Q/2-3 and Add.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of Monaco took places at the Committee table.*
2. **Ms. Cong** asked how many young people held apprenticeship contracts and how long such training generally lasted. She also wished to know if those young people had the possibility of remaining in the service of their employer after their apprenticeship and if some of them dropped out of the training because they had to combine work with study.
3. **Mr. Marchán Romero** asked what public policies the State party had adopted to ensure access to culture for persons with disabilities, the elderly, the poor and other vulnerable persons.
4. **Mr. Bessi** (Monaco) said that Monaco had 2,014 duly declared domestic workers who had the same rights as other workers in respect of (occupational and non-occupational) sickness and accident insurance coverage, pay, holidays or unemployment benefits. Since labour inspectors could not enter an employer's private residence without his or her consent, undeclared domestic workers could initiate investigations by informing the relevant authorities of their situation.
5. The way the employment system worked in Monaco meant that few people worked without a contract. While it was not obligatory to have a written contract, any employer who wished to recruit staff had to make an offer of employment and then to submit a recruitment request to the Employment Office specifying the number of hours worked per week, the employee's classification, a job description, the length of the probation period and the monthly salary. Hence, even if there was no written contract, the authorities had all the information required in order to determine the nature and the main terms and conditions of the employment relationship.
6. Monaco regarded informal work as concealed employment which was punishable by a fine or imprisonment. The employer was obliged to pay for sick leave due to ill health or an accident in the same way as if the employee had been declared. He or she also had to regularize the employee's situation vis-à-vis the Monegasque social insurance funds. Labour inspectors could conduct unannounced checks, at any time of the day or night, at any place of work. While over 1,000 checks were made annually, the number of offences reported — rarely more than 40 — testified to the efficiency of the existing system. In 2012, Monaco had recorded 79 cases of occupational disease and 3,510 industrial accidents, more than a quarter of them occurring on the way to and from work, especially by scooter. The costs of insurance against occupational diseases and accidents were borne entirely by the employer.
7. The minimum hourly wage in Monaco was modelled on the French guaranteed minimum wage (SMIC) and currently amounted to 9.53 euros, which worked out at a gross monthly wage (for a 39-hour work week) of 1,610.57 euros, plus an allowance of 5 per cent on which no social security contributions were due. Monaco had concluded two social security agreements with Italy and France, under which workers from both those countries could be seconded to Monaco and vice versa for no more than one year (or two years in exceptional cases). During that period, the seconded worker was regarded as working in his

or her country of origin for the purpose of social security coverage. Once that period was over, he or she had to be declared to the social security authority of the country in which he or she was working. In the Principality, that person then received all the social benefits to which an employee declared in Monaco was entitled.

8. Monaco applied binding rules regarding child labour, and the Labour Inspectorate conducted meticulous checks in order to safeguard the rights of the child. Act No. 719 of 27 December 1961, on the minimum employment age, stipulated in article 1 that "before children are free from compulsory schooling, they may not be employed, even as an apprentice, in any kind of establishment, business, industry or profession. The only exceptions are the establishments, businesses, industrial or professional undertakings employing only family members under the authority of the father, mother or guardian". Compulsory school attendance was embodied in the Education Act No. 1334 of 12 July 2007, article 3 of which stated that "education is compulsory for every child of either sex once they have reached the age of 6 until they arrive at the age of 16". Monegasque legislation provided particular protection for workers under the age of 18, in that it restricted their working week to 39 hours and forbade them to work at night. Ministerial Decree No. 58-168 of 29 May 1958 concerning special occupational health and safety measures governing women's and children's work also prevented them from engaging in dangerous, immoral or morally harmful work and it set limits on the loads they could carry, drag or push. In Monaco there was no ban on foreigners holding office in trade unions or trade union federations; only the secretary general and treasurer of the federations had to be Monegasque.

9. **Ms. Cotta** (Monaco) explained that Monaco's membership of the International Labour Organization and its accession to some of its conventions would raise issues with regard to national trade union law and the Monegasque system of priority in employment. Promoting mental health and preventing mental disorders throughout life was one of the priorities of public health policy. The mental diseases observed in Monaco were similar to those encountered in other European countries. The care on offer made it possible for any person with a psychological disorder to secure suitable medical treatment, including emergency care. The multidisciplinary geriatric psychiatry branch of care offered a wide range of resources suited to the needs of the elderly both at home and in institutions. Children could receive treatment from various sources including the psychological centre which offered a less stigmatizing environment than a hospital, the part-time therapy centre and the Princess Grace Hospital Centre.

10. From the time a woman became pregnant until two months after childbirth, she was covered by rules on protection at work and was given a monthly medical check-up enabling the attending physician to inform the judiciary or the Department of Health and Social Affairs of any behaviour on her part or that of those around her which might imperil her or her child.

11. The Act on combating and preventing violence against women, children and persons with disabilities provided for measures to protect those persons. If acts of violence were committed against vulnerable persons, especially the elderly, that was regarded as an aggravating circumstance in criminal law. Turning to the waiving of medical secrecy, she cited articles 61 and 64 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which provided that any authority, civil servant or public official who, in the course of their duties, learned of a crime or an offence was required to notify the principal public prosecutor immediately and to forward to that official all information, written evidence and documents as might be of use in punishing it and that any person who had learned of a crime or offence could report it.

12. Sexual and reproductive education was part of the life and earth sciences curriculum and campaigns were run every year to make secondary-school pupils aware of sexually transmissible infections. Act No. 1359 of 2009 established a centre for coordinating

prenatal and family support, which could provide the requisite information and counselling. Medical interruption of pregnancy was permitted only if the pregnant woman's life was in danger, if the foetus was diagnosed as suffering from an incurable disease or if pregnancy was the result of rape.

13. As of 1 April 2014, 79 persons had the status of disabled worker, 47 of them employed in a normal workplace and 32 placed in a sheltered environment; the employment rate of disabled workers in a normal workplace was 53 per cent as against 45 per cent in 2008 and that of disabled workers in a sheltered environment approached 100 per cent. Persons recognized as disabled workers by a special committee had a guaranteed earned income equivalent to 90 per cent of the SMIC if they had been placed in a sheltered workshop or in supported employment. They received the full SMIC if they were employed in an ordinary workplace. Disabled workers who were unable on their own to find a job on the ordinary labour market could be given special support. In return for making a job available to the Department of Health and Social Affairs, the employer bore only 15 per cent of the SMIC and social security contributions; the remaining 85 per cent was borne by the State. The integration of disabled workers in a normal working environment was facilitated by a skills assessment.

14. Every self-employed person in the Principality of Monaco had to join a social insurance scheme. Persons insured with Monegasque schemes had access, irrespective of their resources, to all care provided in Monegasque territory, and persons on a small income were covered by rules ensuring that they would be exempt from additional fees. All persons covered by compulsory medical insurance had equal access to medical care and treatment without discrimination on the ground of nationality. Children's medical coverage was determined by the place of work of their parents, who were at all times effectively responsible for ensuring that coverage. The requirement that a foreigner must have lived in Monaco for five years before they were eligible for welfare benefits had not been challenged in order to avoid a glut of people settling in Monaco in order to claim those benefits. At the same time, if some special cases were reported to the social services, the persons concerned could receive assistance as specified by the law, even if they had not lived in Monegasque territory for five years. Several leave arrangements existed within the civil service, such as leave without pay to enable a mother to bring up her child. In the private sector, employees could take up to 35 days of leave a year in order to look after a sick child.

15. **Mr. Cellario** (Monaco) said that it was still too early to take stock of the measures adopted in response to the ESPAD (European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs) surveys in 2007 and 2011, where 10 per cent of youngsters in the 15–16 age group said that they had consumed a drug other than cannabis at least once. Of the 43 cases opened between 2006 and 2013 on account of violence or offences against minors, 12 concerned the organization or facilitation of the sexual exploitation of minors by the downloading or availability of child pornography files. Six proceedings had been opened for the circulation of child pornography pictures during the same period. Act No. 1355 concerning associations and federations of associations and Act No. 1382 on the prevention and suppression of particular forms of violence gave *locus standi* to associations.

16. **Ms. Ambrosini** (Monaco) explained that State housing reserved for nationals was allocated according to criteria defined by ministerial decree and that the granting of national housing benefit depended on a household's income. In the protected sector, legislation specified the order of eligibility and permitted the granting of housing benefit to nationals. Government housing located in adjacent communes could be allocated to civil servants. The housing stock belonging to the National Pension Fund was reserved as a matter of priority for Monegasque employees.

17. **Ms. Bras Gomes** wished to know more about mechanisms for assisting foreigners who had been resident in the Principality for under five years. Were fathers entitled to parental leave to look after a sick child, or did only a mother have that right?
18. **Mr. Sadi** asked how the State party intended to reconcile the Covenant provisions with the five-year residence requirement the Monegasque authorities imposed in respect of free medical assistance. He deemed the conditions for the interruption of pregnancy to be particularly restrictive, and wished to know how many women went abroad for abortions.
19. **Ms. Shin** asked whether the Domestic Violence Act had entered into force and whether health professionals and teachers were obliged to report cases of domestic violence. How heavy were the sentences to which perpetrators of violence against persons with disabilities were liable? Could a girl continue her schooling after she had had a baby?
20. **Ms. Lanteri** (Monaco) said that teenage mothers received support from the social services which enabled them to resume their studies after childbirth.
21. **Ms. Pettiti** (Monaco) explained that Act No. 1382 on the prevention and suppression of certain forms of violence, which had entered into force, strengthened the arsenal of measures to combat acts of domestic violence against a spouse, a child or any vulnerable person, including a person with disabilities. The penalty was heavier when the victim was a vulnerable person. A new article of the Criminal Code permitted the waiving of professional secrecy for health-care professionals or welfare workers who, on learning of the abuse of a minor or vulnerable person, reported it to the authorities.
22. **Ms. Lanteri** (Monaco) said that the special circumstances of Monaco, which had the highest population density in the world and offered the highest benefits, obliged the Government to place certain restrictions, such as years of residence, on drawing those benefits.
23. **Mr. Bessi** (Monaco) said that the Principality of Monaco offered 120 to 130 apprenticeship contracts every year. Most apprentices were French, Monegasque, Portuguese or Italian. The apprentice could be recruited by his or her employer at the end of the contract and he or she then received the minimum wage for the post. Estimates showed that, after their training, 60 or 70 per cent of apprentices were employed in the territory of Monaco. The Principality defrayed all the costs of training apprentices resident in its territory and half the cost of training those resident in adjacent communes.
24. **Mr. Cellario** (Monaco) said that the Scientific Centre of Monaco had a 24-strong staff, 9 of them women. Both research directors were women. The Principality took part in numerous activities in the field of international scientific cooperation, in particular under the RAMOGE Agreement with France and Italy for the protection of the marine and coastal environment in one zone of the Mediterranean. The Sovereign Prince of Monaco chaired the Mediterranean Science Commission, which organized numerous scientific exchanges in which the Oceanographic Institute and the Scientific Centre of Monaco participated. The Oceanographic Institute and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation engaged in environmental preservation. Partnerships had also been established between Monegasque bodies and French research laboratories and universities. The Scientific Centre of Monaco and the World Health Organization were conducting joint research into the impact of climate change on health. As far as access to scientific and technical progress was concerned, the Principality's medical facilities offered its residents and people in its catchment area a high-end technical platform and high-quality medical care.
25. It was the Principality's policy to promote access to culture for all, especially for vulnerable persons, by making premises available to associations, ensuring that public buildings were accessible to persons with reduced mobility, endeavouring to disseminate

culture to young people in educational establishments and offering young people, the elderly or persons with disabilities free or cheap tickets for performances and exhibitions.

26. **Ms. Lanteri** (Monaco) said that Monaco hosted some institutions such as the International Hydrographic Bureau and the secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area.

27. **Mr. Atangana** (Rapporteur for Monaco) welcomed the dialogue with the delegation of Monaco. He was sure that the concluding observations would reflect its substance.

28. **The Chairperson** said that the Committee had completed its consideration of the combined second and third periodic reports of Monaco. Its concluding observations would be adopted on 23 May.

The first part (public) of the meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.